

TOTO0004-US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

MASAAKI MIMURA et al.

Serial No. New Application

ATTN. APPLICATION BRANCH

Filed: November 14, 2001

For: MARK FORMING METHOD AND
PRODUCT USING THE SAME
METHOD

Box: Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4 and 14 as shown on the attached sheets.

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REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

4. (Amended) A method for forming a mark according to claim 2, wherein black nickel or an alloy of tin and nickel is used for the nickel plating layer, black chromium, an alloy of tin and cobalt, or gold is used for the chromium plating layer, and the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is freely varied depending on the combination.

14. (Amended) A faucet product in which a mark having a desired letter or picture is formed by a method according to claim 1.

Inventor: Masaaki MIMURA et al.
Attorney Docket No. TOTO0004-US

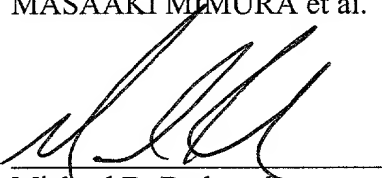
REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is being made to remove the multiple dependencies from claims 4 and 14 as filed. No new matter has been added. A favorable action on the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MASAAKI MIMURA et al.

By:


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DATE: **November 14, 2001**

Attachments: Amended claims with markings

4. A method for forming a mark according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein black nickel or an alloy of tin and nickel is used for the nickel plating layer, black chromium, an alloy of tin and cobalt, or gold is used for the chromium plating layer, and the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is freely varied depending on the combination.

method according to [any one of claim 1 to 13] claim 1.